

Remarks

The Official Action mailed 31 March 2003 (hereinafter "Final Action") rejected claims 1-28 and made such rejection final. With the present amendment, Applicant has cancelled claim 12 and amended claims 1, 10, 17, 22 and 24-26. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 13-28 remain pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1-11 and 13-28.

Examiner Interviews

Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to discuss the present application during an interview conducted by telephone on 21 May 2003. Claims 1, 10 and 12 were discussed as well as cited references Hinckley (US 5,828,882), Topff (US 6,026,500), Bradley (US 6,181,182), and Corrington (US 6,076,142). Though Applicant contended as still contends that the claims pending on 21 May 2003 are allowable over the art of record, Applicant proposed amending claim 10 to include the "I/O processor" limitations of claim 12 and to add "I/O processor" limitations to the other independent claims in order to expedite prosecution. Examiner agreed to discuss the proposed amendment with her supervisor and to call the Applicant at a later date.

During a telephone conversation on 3 June 2003, the Examiner informed the Applicant that an amendment would be entered and the Final Action would be removed if claim 10 were amended to include the "I/O processor" limitations of claim 12. The Applicant accordingly has amended claim 10 to include such limitations of claim 12. Further, the Applicant has amended the other independent claims to include "I/O processor" limitations as proposed during the interview of 21 May 2003.

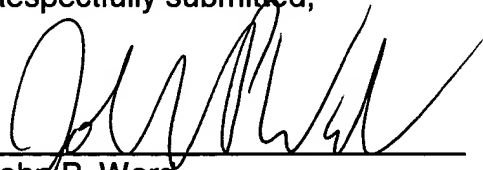
Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Final Action mailed 31 March 2003. Additional arguments to distinguish the cited references from claims 1-11 and 13-28 could have been made, but it is believed that the foregoing discussion is sufficient in light of the Examiner's comments during the conversations of 21 May 2003 and 3 June 2003. Applicant submits that claims 1-11 and 13-28 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims 1-11 and 13-28 is earnestly solicited.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666. If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (480) 554-4198 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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